

## CHAPTER V

### WORLD VOYAGE OF THE NAVY

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT always regarded his  
Bending' of the  
§ \* battle fleet of the navy around the world as a  
most im-  
I > portant service to peace. He decided upon  
it at a critical  
I I moment in the relations between the United  
States and  
I ; Japan. Throughout the entire year of  
1907 he was en-  
4 ' cleaving with zeal and infinite patience to  
induce the Cali-  
I fornia Legislature to refrain from violently  
offensive action  
? ' on the subject of Japanese immigration and  
the treatment  
f • of Japanese children who had been  
excluded from the  
I I ' public schools. In the end he succeeded  
completely, both  
in Congress and in California, Writing from  
Oyster Bay  
to Secretary Root, on July 13, he refers to  
his plan in  
regard to the fleet:

"I am more concerned over the Japanese situation than  
almost any other. Thank Heaven we have the navy in good  
shape. It is high time, however, that it should go on a  
cruise around the world. In the first place I think it will  
have a pacific effect to show that it can be clone; and in the  
next place, after talking thoroughly over the situation with  
I J the naval board I became convinced that it  
was absolutely

I ' necessary for us to try in time of peace to  
see just what  
I t we could do in the way of putting a big battle  
fleet in the  
; I Pacific, and not make the experiment in time of  
war.

"Aoki and Admiral Yamamoto were out here yesterday  
at lunch. Aoki is a singularly cool and wise old boy. I am  
i i afraid he is much more so than his fellow  
countrymen.

I ; Yamamoto, an ex-Cabinet Minister and a  
man of ixnpor-  
I i tance, evidently had completely misunderstood  
the situation  
I here and what the possibilities were. I  
had a long talk  
I ' with him through an interpreter.

